

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Presiding Officer (Mr. CHAMBLISS) appointed Mr. SHELBY, Mr. SPENCER, Mr. BOND, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. STEVENS, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. BYRD, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. REID, Mr. KOHL, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. INOUE conferees on the part of the Senate.

VOTE EXPLANATIONS

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I announce that on vote No. 406, the Feingold amendment, amendment No. 1904, which occurred earlier today, I was necessarily absent from the Senate on business. Had I been present to vote, I would have voted "nay" on the tabling motion for that amendment.

(At the request of Mr. DASCHLE, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, today, I have a long-standing commitment to a remarkable project in the ongoing downtown Los Angeles redevelopment effort. Therefore, I am unable to be present for the votes today in the Senate.

However, if I had been present, I would have voted "no" on the motion to table the Dorgan amendment.

I would have voted "yes" on the motion to table the Feingold amendment.

I would have voted "yes" on both the Thomas and Mikulski amendments.

I would have also voted "yes" on the motion to waive the Budget Act with regard to the Dodd-McConnell amendment.

Finally, I would have voted "yes" on final passage of the Transportation appropriations bill. •

AMENDMENT NO. 1964

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding passage of H.R. 2989, the Transportation appropriations bill, the amendment at the desk by Senator COLLINS be agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 1964) was agreed to, as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 1964

(Purpose: To limit the use of funds for converting to contractor performance of executive agency activities and functions)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. . (a) None of the funds appropriated by this Act may be used for converting to contractor performance an activity or function of an executive agency that, on or after the date of the enactment of this Act, is performed by executive agency employees unless the conversion is based on the results of a public-private competition process that requires a determination regarding whether, over all performance periods stated in the solicitation of offers for performance of the activity or function, the cost of performance of the activity or function by a contractor would be less costly to the executive agency by an amount that equals or exceeds the lesser of (A) 10 percent of the cost of performing the activity with government per-

sonnel or, if a most efficient organization has been developed, 10 percent of the most efficient organization's personnel-related costs for performance of that activity or function by Federal employees, or (B) \$10,000,000. With respect to the use of any funds appropriated by this Act for the Department of Defense—

(1) Subsections (a), (b), and (c) of section 2461 of title 10, United States Code do not apply with respect to the performance of a commercial or industrial type activity or function that—

(A) is on the procurement list established under section 2 of the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act (41 U.S.C. 47); or

(B) is planned to be converted to performance by—

(i) a qualified nonprofit agency for the blind or a qualified nonprofit agency for other severely handicapped (as such terms are defined in section 5 of such Act (41 U.S.C. 48b)); or

(ii) a commercial business at least 51 percent of which is owned by an Indian tribe (as defined in section 4(e) of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450b(e))) or a Native Hawaiian Organization (as defined in section 8(a)(15) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637(a)(15))).

(2) Nothing in this section shall effect depot contracts or contracts for depot maintenance as provided in sections 2469 and 2474 of title 10, United States Code.

(3) The conversion of any activity or function of an executive agency in accordance with this section shall be credited toward any competitive or outsourcing goal, target or measurement that may be established by statute, regulation or policy and shall be deemed to be awarded under the authority of and in compliance with section 303 of the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 (41 U.S.C. 253) or section 2304 of title 10, United States Code, as the case may be, for the competition or outsourcing of commercial activities.

(b) In this section, the term "executive agency" has the meaning given such term in section 4 of the Office of Federal Procurement Policy Act (41 U.S.C. 403).

(c) Nothing in this section shall be construed to effect, amend or repeal Section 8014 of the Defense Appropriations Act, 2004 (Public Law 108-87).

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—S. 1753

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at a time to be determined by the majority leader, after consultation with the minority leader, but not before Monday October 27, the Senate proceed to consideration of Calendar No. 312, S. 1753, the National Consumer Credit Reporting System Improvement Act of 2003.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection? Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there be a

period for morning business with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NASA GLENN AWARDS

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, I honor the scientists, engineers, and other innovators working with the NASA Glenn Research Center in Cleveland. They are working tirelessly to develop technologies and products that improve the lives of Americans—both in missions to space and in everyday applications here on Earth. Through commercialization initiatives, these products are brought from the laboratory into the marketplace, driving the creation of new jobs and economic growth nationwide.

NASA Glenn recently received six of Research & Design Magazine's "R&D 100" awards, which are awarded annually to the 100 most technologically significant products introduced into the marketplace. This is a tremendous accomplishment for the Glenn Research Center, its employees, and the numerous organizations and individuals who work in partnership with the Center. I recognize each of the award recipients and thank them for their outstanding work:

NASA Glenn's Structures and Acoustics division, in collaboration with the University of Toledo and the Army Office, developed new high-load bearings capable of operating at over 1,000 degrees Fahrenheit. This new bearings technology has opened the door to two new patent applications, and is the result of the hard work and dedication of Gerald Montague, Andrew Provenza, Albert Kascak, Mark Jansen, Ralph Jansen, Ben Ebihara, and Dr. Alan Palazzolo.

A combined airport data and radar device developed by NASA Glenn in collaboration with VIGYAN, Inc., will provide new opportunities for pilots to access weather information while in the sky via a portable device called the "Pilot Weather Advisor". It was made possible by NASA Glenn's Engineering Design and Analysis Center, as well as the personal assistance of Glenn Lindamood.

Thanks to a system developed through a partnership between Zin Technologies and NASA Glenn, real time data plots from the International Space Station are now available to end users through a system known as the "Microgravity Analysis Software System." MASS. NASA staff, including Kevin McPherson, Ted Wright, Ken Hrovat, Eric Kelly, Gene Lieberman, and Nissim Lugasy, teamed up with Zin Technologies' Tim Reckart to make the MASS project possible.

Drawing on NASA Glenn's renowned expertise with icing research, a New York-based company has recently brought the first new FAA approved deicing technology to market in 40 years. This new system will provide protection to sensitive aircraft materials, while also combining two long-recognized deicing techniques. NASA Glenn's Dean Miller and Andy Reehorst, as well as representatives from Cox & Company, developed this important innovation.

Advances in thermal protection technologies known as "DMBZ-15," jointly developed by NASA Glenn and an Ohio firm, will improve the temperatures and wear resistance of aircraft engines and other propulsion systems, extending flight capabilities and